Dearborn Debate 2015: General Information/Introductory Meeting

COACH: MS. SHAW

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(248) 444-4685 (text preferred)

**BLOG:**

**http://iblog.dearbornschools.org/dhsmediacenter/dhs-debate/**

**Dearborn Debate Team Philosophy/Mission:** We are looking to improve upon Dearborn’s legislative debate.  To do so, the coaching staff has determined that we will accept nothing less than a 100% commitment from our team members. That means that you may not participate on the Debate team if you have any conflicts. We have only 4 meets. Check your calendars and make sure you can attend ALL 4. Furthermore, this year we have a new requirement: ***STUDENTS MUST SEND MS. SHAW 2 DEBATE SPEECH PREPARATION SHEETS VIA EMAIL DUE 2 DAYS BEFORE EACH DEBATE MEET…ONE ON A PRO BILL AND ONE ON A CON BILL FOR THE MEET COMING UP.***

Today’s Agenda:

1. Team Expectations- Debate team Members are required to attend all meetings and Debate meets. If you miss more than 1 team meeting/practice or league event, you will be removed from the team.  ALL absences must be cleared by Ms. Shaw WELL AHEAD of time so please get your calendars in order ASAP!
2. Tryouts- In order to be a member of the Debate team, you MUST participate in the informational meeting and tryouts, which will be held on **Wednesday, September 16(400-5;15) ) and Friday,  September 17(4:00)**   During tryouts, each interested debater will deliver one 1 minute speech in front of a “chamber” (other kids trying out).  Every student trying out must remain in the room for the entire tryout process or they will not be chosen for the team.  You will have to prepare 1 speech to be delivered for the tryout- more information below.
3. Returning members:

Bills- start working on ASAP for league and beyond- send them my way via email  (NEW email above)  immediately for consideration- remember 1 bill per school so do quality work. FIRST BILLS ARE DUE BY TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th).

1. Must be formatted properly or I won’t submit to other coaches.  See blog on how to format bill.
2. If not used for a particular league date they may be rolled over, so continue to tweak and improve as season goes on
3. Wayne-Oakland Legislative Debate League Information
4. Members- Novi, P-CEP schools (Canton, Plymouth, Salem), Dearborn, Livonia Stevenson, Livonia Churchill, Livonia Franklin, South Lyon, South Lyon East, Northville, new this year Edsel Ford
5. League dates are on the commitment dates handout- get them in your calendar and commit- YOU MUST ATTEND ALL 4 LEAGUE EVENTS TO BE ON THE TEAM!
6. Rules will be part of your informational packet given to students who make the team
7. Miscellaneous
8. Leadership – we will continue to have appointed leaders for both the varsity and the novice members.  Those leaders will be chosen based on past commitment to the team and past successes as a competitive debater.  Potential leaders will be approached very soon to create mini-lessons/presentations for the team.
9. Varsity Letter point system-                                                                                                                          Average rank at league of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,6,7 – 5 points                                                                                                Writing a bill that makes a league docket- 5 points                                                                                              Making the league final (top ~15 in the league in your division) – 10 points

Points needed for varsity letter- 35, plus second or more year status, unless additional circumstances warrant a first year competitor earning their letter.

1. Information will be delivered at meetings and via email…..YOU MUST GIVE MS. SHAW AN EMAIL ADDRESS YOU CHECK EVERYDAY! Hard copies of items will be available on the blog, but most everything will be sent via email once the team is selected.
2. Registration for events will not be necessary, as ALL MEMBERS are REQUIRED to go to ALL LEAGUES.
3. Speech Preparation for tryouts and beyond
4. Plagiarizing all or part of any speech is grounds for IMMEDIATE REMOVAL from the team.  In addition, you will be referred to administration, the National Honor Society Chairperson, will be notified which means you probably won’t ever be considered for NHS, which is appropriate, because cheaters do not have honor☺
5. Debate is a competitive SPEAKING activity, not a competitive READING or WRITING activity.  You should NOT be WRITING or READING entire speeches during competition.
6. Successful debaters can:

1. Speak on both sides of LOTS of issues/bills (usually almost all of the bills in a docket), 2. Think on their feet, 3. Adapt to what the chamber has already said and not rehash old arguments, even if they agree with a previous speaker.

1. To prepare for events, including tryouts, you are URGED to use the organizer that follows below so that you become a quality debater who places high and feels awesome about their performance.
2. Speaking of tryouts, you must prepare speeches on ANY TOPIC YOU CHOOSE- serious or fun.  You will only be permitted a notecard or paper with bullet points (use the form that follows!)- DO NOT WRITE OUT YOUR ENTIRE SPEECH!  If you do, you probably will not make the team!
3. Topic Suggestions?

1. Your take/view on ANY current local/state/national event/issue (examples: “American voters should vote for \_\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in November because…”, or “President Obama has been doing a great/horrible job when it comes to the war/the economy/public education”, or “medical marijuana is good/bad because…”- get the idea?..

2. ANY topic you are interested in (examples: “...the Pistons will be much better/worse this year because of…” or “some of my goals for the school year are…and this is why”- be creative, have fun!)

1. The tryout is meant to test your ability/desire to speak in front of an audience, since at its core, that is what debate is.  It is not okay to call yourself a debater if you cannot speak intelligently in front of a group with limited preparation- simply THINK about what you are going to say, don’t WRITE every word down.  Your speech should take you 5-10 minutes to prepare for and then time to practice it while looking in a mirror!  Any more than that and you are stressing way too much!
2. Please ask questions if you are unsure of our expectations and again, USE the template below and have fun!

Dearborn Debate Speech Preparation Sheet

Bill name/topic:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Bill summary (3-4 sentences, in your own words): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Affirmative bullets (2-4 reasons why bill is GOOD)    Negative bullets (2-4 reasons why bill is BAD)

1-2 pieces of Aff. Evidence:                1-2 pieces of Neg. Evidence:

Notes:

**EXPECTATIONS FOR**

**DEBATE TEAM MEMBERSHIP**

***RETURN TO MS. SHAW***

**I. TEAM EXPECTATIONS**

1. **Attend all meetings.** Meetings will be announced via email/texts/ or  morning announcements. Leaving early or coming late is not allowed. **To be a member of the debate team and participate in any debate events you MUST attend all meetings.**
2. **Participate in league.**  There are league competitions once a month. The time commitment is from approximately 2:30pm-8:00pm. Students must attend **ALL** league debate events in order to be considered a member of the Debate Team.
3. **Prepare appropriately for tournaments.**  All students can be good debaters as long as they are willing to work hard.  Students who fail to research the bills before competitions or attempt to attend a competition with minimal preparation will not be allowed to compete again. ***NEW THIS YEAR: All STUDENTS MUST SEND MS. SHAW 2 DEBATE SPEECH PREPARATION SHEETS VIA EMAIL…ONE ON A PRO BILL AND ONE ON A CON BILL FOR THE MEET COMING UP. THESE ARE DUE 2 DAYS BEFORE THE MEET.***  **Do not attempt to arrive at a  Debate Meet if you have not sent the speech preparation sheets to Ms. Shaw 2 days prior to event.**
4. **Dress appropriately for tournaments.**  Students should be dressed in professional attire for all competitions.  NO JEANS!!  NO WHITE SOCKS!! NO SHORT SKIRTS/DRESSES!! NO LOW-CUT SHIRTS!! NO T-SHIRTS (especially with words/pictures)! High heels are not necessary. When possible, men wear ties, dress pants, and dress shoes. Women can wear nice pants or skirts with a nice shirt and/or sweater. Dresses are ok, but please make sure it is not too short.

**II. EVENT EXPECTATIONS**

1. All students will remain in scheduled activities until they are dismissed.
2. Students will travel in groups and never leave the invitational site or league site without permission from a chaperone. This year, you are responsible to be find transportation to the meets.
3. Students will attend all debate rounds for which they are registered.  Dropping without a valid reason, and at least 1 week prior to an event will result in the student paying all fees incurred from the drop. This will include tournament fees AND judge fees. If you are asked to leave the team, you will not receive a refund for the money you gave to the team.
4. Students will use good judgment for situations not addressed by the above expectations.  When in doubt—ASK!!  Our goal is for you to be safe, learn, and have a good time.
5. $20.00 (checks made to Dearborn High School) will be required after being chosen for the team. If there is a financial hardship, we can talk to your parents and work something out. There will not be any refunds for this check.

**III. VARSITY LETTER REQUIREMENTS**

It is possible to earn a varsity letter by being on the Debate Team.  Below is the point system used to determine eligibility for a varsity letter.  Points will be tallied by the coaches.

**POINT SYSTEM**

* + - Average rank at league of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 – 5 points
    - Writing a bill that makes a league docket- 5 points
    - Making the league final (top ~15 in the league in your division) – 10 points
    - Points needed for varsity letter- 35 points, plus second or more year status, unless additional circumstances warrant a first year competitor earning their letter.

**IV. DEBATE TEAM 2015 SCHEDULE**If you are seriously interested in debating for DHS, get your calendar together so you can properly commit to ALL of these dates.

Dearborn Debate 2015 Commitment Dates (subject to change, but probably only minimally, if at all):

Wednesday, September 16th- Informational Meeting 4:00

Friday, September 18- Team Tryouts 4;00

**I have read the expectations listed and realize that meeting these expectations is essential to the success of the debate team.  I understand that failure to meet these expectations will result in my removal from the Debate Team.**

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**DEARBORN High School Debate Team 2015**

**PLEASE PRINT FULL NAME!  CONTACT INFORMATION**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Birth Date\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you text? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Who can we contact in case of emergency, if we can’t reach the above parent/guardian?**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2015 Debate Meetings and Debate Meets**

**YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR OWN TRANSPORTATION THERE AND BACK**

**-9/16: 4:00 Meeting at DHS in Media Center**

**-9/18: 4:00 Meeting at DHS in Media Center**

**-9/30: 4:00 Meeting at DHS in Media Center**

***\*\*Monday, October 5th: Churchhill High School (3:10- @8:00pm)***

***8900 Newburgh Road, Livonia 48150***

**-10/7: 4:00 Meeting at DHS in Media Center**

**-10/21: 4:00 Meeting at DHS in Media Center**

***\*\*Monday, October 26th:  Dearborn High School(3:10- @8:00pm)***

***19501 Outer Drive, Dearborn, MI 48124***

**-10/28: 4:00 Meeting at DHS in Media Center**

**-11/11: 4:00 Meeting at DHS in Media Center**

***\*\*Monday, Novemeber 16th: Stevenson High School(3:10- @8:00pm)***

***33500 Six Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48152***

**-12/2: 4:00 Meeting at DHS in Media Center**

**-12/9: 4:00 Meeting at DHS in Media Center**

***\*\*Monday, December 14th:  Novi High School(3:10- @8:30pm)***

***24602 Taft Road, Novi, MI 48375***

**-12/16: Debate Banquet**